Amendments to the Specification

In the Specification:

Before paragraph [0002] please insert the heading --BACKGROUND--.

Before paragraph [0005], insert the heading --SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION--.

Please replace paragraph [0005] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0005] ~~The~~ An object of the present invention is to facilitate the mutual locking of two contactors whose actuating members move in a direction parallel to the connecting sidewalls.

Please insert the new paragraph [0005.1] before paragraph [0006] as follows:

--[0005.1] The present invention provides a mechanical locking device for mechanically connected contactors includes a first and a second actuating member and a locking element. The actuating member is operatively connected to a first electromagnetic operating mechanism and a first movable contact of the first contactor. The second actuating member is operatively connected to a second electromagnetic operating mechanism and a second movable contact of the second contactor. The first actuating member has a first curved recess adjacent the first connecting sidewall. The second actuating member has a second curved recess adjacent the second connecting sidewall. The locking element includes a rolling element received in a respective opening in each of the first and second connecting sidewalls. The first actuating member urges the locking element into the second recess when the first contactor is in a switched-on condition and the second actuating member urges the locking element into the first recess when the second contactor is in a switched-on condition.--.

Please delete paragraph [0006].

Please replace paragraph [0007] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0007] The locking device of to the present invention simply requires only one additional part in the form of a rolling element, which cooperates with ~~spherical cap-type~~ curved recesses of the actuating members as a connecting element. This type of locking results in a very small idle stroke for the contactor to be locked, which helps to increase reliability and allows the design engineer to calculate the play stroke in a simple manner. The electromagnetic operating mechanisms may be operated with a markedly reduced holding power.

Please replace paragraph [0009] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0009] The present invention also provides an auxiliary tool. The auxiliary tool of the present invention facilitates the assembly of the locking device according to the present invention. A receiving space formed by the fork slot elastically holds the locking element at its opposite surface portions which are perpendicular to the connecting sidewalls and to the moving direction of the actuating members. Prior to fitting the locking device to a mounting rail or to another suitable mounting base, the two contactors must be brought together such that their connecting sidewalls are spaced apart by a distance that still allows the locking element held between the fork prongs to be moved by the auxiliary tool into the region of the openings in the connecting sidewalls. After moving the contactors closer together, the locking element extending beyond the flat sides of the auxiliary tool is trapped within the facing openings, allowing the auxiliary tool to be detached from the locking element and removed from the space between the connecting sidewalls. The locking device is completed by a final movement together of the contactors.

Before paragraph [0011], please insert the heading --BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS--.

Before paragraph [0015], please insert the heading --DETAILED DESCRIPTION--.

Please replace paragraph [0017] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0017] When both contactors 2a and 2b are in the OFF state, the two actuating members 8a and 8b assume the upper position, which is depicted in Figure 2 for actuating member 8a shown on the left. In this situation, locking element 14 rests loosely between the two recesses 12a and 12b, which, in this instance, directly face each other through openings 6a and 6b. When, starting from this situation, one of the two contactors 2a or 2b is switched on, its actuating member 8a or 8b may move unhindered from top to bottom, with respect to the view of Figure 2. In the case illustrated in Figure 2, contactor 2b located on the right has been switched on. As the associated actuating member 8b moves to the lower position by actuation stroke 16, locking element 14 is removed from the region of recess 12b and displaced through openings 6b and 6a to the left by the portion of this actuating member ~~12b~~ 8b that is not set back, and further into recess 12a of actuating member 8a of contactor 2a, which is shown on the left. Contactor 2a located on the left is thus locked from being switched on, because when attempting to switch on left contactor 2a as well, the blocked movement to the right of locking device 14 makes it impossible for actuating member 8a of left contactor 2a to move with its recess 12a out of engagement with locking device 14.

Please replace paragraph [0018] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0018] When the electromagnetic operating mechanisms of both contactors 2a and 2b are energized simultaneously, both actuating members ~~12a and 12b~~ 8a and 8b are prevented from moving downward, according to the view of Fig. 2, because the two spherical cap-shaped recesses 12a and 12b cannot simultaneously move out of engagement with locking device 14. When attempting to switch on contactors 2a and 2b simultaneously, they are held in the OFF state in conformity with regulations. Therefore, no race can occur between contactors 2a, 2b.